

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 320

By Pody

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Jake Williams on winning the 2015 NAIA Wrestling National Championship.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to specially honor and commend those gifted student-athletes who, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of our State; and

WHEREAS, Jake Williams, a student at Cumberland University, is one such noteworthy athlete, who has distinguished himself as the 2015 NAIA Wrestling National Champion of the 149-pound weight division; and

WHEREAS, with roots tracing back to the ancient Greeks and the early Olympics, wrestling is a very demanding sport, and Mr. Williams has proven himself to be a remarkable wrestler as well as a valuable team player; and

WHEREAS, the 58th annual NAIA Wrestling National Championships were held on March 6–7 at the Kansas Expocentre in Topeka, Kansas; and

WHEREAS, despite falling behind twice in the championship match, Jake Williams's takedown of top-ranked Jake Ekster early in the third period, followed by a waved-off takedown by Mr. Williams late in the third period, led the match into sudden victory; and

WHEREAS, yet another takedown by Jake Williams in the final thirty seconds of the period resulted in a 10–5 decision and the wrestler's second consecutive national title; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williams's passion for and dedication to the sport of wrestling have enabled him to become the first two-time national wrestling champion in Cumberland University's history; and

WHEREAS, born in Silver City, New Mexico, Jake Williams grew up in Rio Rancho, New Mexico, the son of Stan Williams and Rosann Williams; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williams won the New Mexico state wrestling title and was named a High School All-American during his senior year at Rio Rancho High School in 2009, and he attended Central New Mexico Community College before transferring to Concordia University, Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, Jake Williams credits Assistant Coach Andrew Nicola with not only having a positive impact on his life, but also being one of the main reasons he transferred to Concordia University, Nebraska: "When he was recruiting me he always told me I was going to reach my goals on and off the mat"; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williams epitomizes all that is good in today's student-athlete, as he has achieved a premier level of success in competition while showing the highest degree of character both on and off the wrestling mat; and

WHEREAS, Jake Williams's dedication to excellence is clearly deserving of the respect, admiration, and commendation of this General Assembly; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Jake Williams for his incomparable success on the wrestling mat and his capture of the 2015 NAIA Wrestling National Championship and wish him much success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.